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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Information on the KVP Mortar Regiment in Altwarp

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 4 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 1 September 1953, the former ODD Camp, about 1.5 km west of Altwarp, south of the road to Warsin, quartered a KVP mortar unit, which was called S-6 Kommando. The regiment had been organized in Frankenberg in 1952 under the code designation "Dienststelle Frankenberg II", and moved to Altwarp in late March 1953. The unit was scheduled to move to Karpin on 25 September 1953, the completion date of the barracks installation near Karpin. ¹
2. In early July 1953, the S-6 Kommando, the only KVP mortar regiment, consisted of 12 batteries equipped with a total of 72 x 122-mm mortars, while 8 additional mortars were assigned to the regimental school. About 10 July 1953, the 4th, 8th, and 12th Batteries were transferred to Armeegruppe Sued, the regimental school was deactivated and its equipment distributed among the S-6 Kommando. ¹
3. In early September 1953, the regiment consisted of the headquarters with headquarters platoon and three battalions with a total of nine batteries equipped with a total of 54 x 122-mm mortars. The headquarters platoon was equipped with signal and measuring equipment. ²
4. Officers known to be assigned to the regiment included:
 Lieutenant Colonel Phillip Waterstradt, commanding officer;
 Major Auerbach (fnu), chief of staff;
 Senior Lieutenant Koehn (fnu), assistant to the chief of staff;
 Senior Lieutenant Schirmann (fnu), PK officer (Captain Kassner (fnu) previously PK officer of the unit, went to the USSR for further training.);
 Senior Lieutenant Salchow (fnu), supply officer;
 Senior Lieutenant Hess (fnu), in charge of training;
 Senior Lieutenant Henschel (fnu), chief of the personnel department;
 Lieutenant Hoepfner (fnu), finance officer;
 Junior Lieutenant Hopfinger (fnu), in charge of clothing and equipment;
 Junior Lieutenant Steinhauser (fnu), in charge of ordnance material;
 Junior Lieutenant Gruner (fnu), deputy to Steinhauser;
 Senior Lieutenant Lux (fnu), in charge of the B-Park (heavy weapons);
 Junior Lieutenant Schulze (fnu), motor officer;
 Junior Lieutenant Draeger (fnu), previously in charge of the classified section material was transferred to the division headquarters;
 Senior Lieutenant Wolf (fnu), gas officer;
 Senior Lieutenant Lange (fnu), previously chief of the party bureau was transferred;
 Senior Lieutenant Krieger (fnu), previously chief of the FDJ bureau was transferred to another unit as PK officer;

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Senior Lieutenant Tschensch (fnu), previously signal officer was transferred;
 Senior Lieutenant Marras (fnu), previously chief of the S-1 Section (intelligence) was discharged;
 Senior Lieutenant Pekuhl (fnu), commanding officer of the 2nd Bn;
 Senior Lieutenant Schmidt (fnu), PK officer of the 2nd Bn.
 One Soviet colonel, one Soviet major, and one Soviet interpreter were also attached to the regiment. Prior to mid-June 1953, about 25 Soviet advisors had been attached to the regiment. ³

5. Prior to July 1953, the regiment numbered 1,020 men including 180 officers. In connection with the reorganization of the unit, this strength decreased to about 560 men, the individual batteries consisting of 45 to 47 men. On 13 July 1953, 150 to 200 NCOs and EM in addition to about 30 officers were discharged. All of them had served for more than three years. The discharges had to report to the recruiting offices at their places of residence. ²
6. Motor vehicles available to the regiment included:
 - 69 cross-country vehicles with a capacity of eight men each and fitted for the towing of mortars;
 - 1 repair shop truck;
 - 4 x 3.5 ton trucks;
 - 9 trucks (personnel carriers), 3 assigned to each battalion;
 - 1 jeep;
 - 2 BMW sedans;
 - 1 model H 3 A ambulance;

The car used by the commanding officer of the unit [redacted]
 Other motor vehicle [redacted] identified [redacted]
 [redacted] The vehicles [redacted]
 [redacted] for transportation vehicle, operational vehicle, cross-country vehicle, and driving school vehicle respectively.
7. During the reported period, infantry support missions at battery level were being practiced. This stage was scheduled to be completed by the fall of 1953. Joint exercises with Soviet units have not taken place so far.
8. In early September 1953, Senior Lieutenant Wolf (fnu), gas officer of the unit, for the first time received material related to his missions. In June 1953, preparations were being made for the distribution of gas masks. No instructions on chemical defense had been given so far.
9. Superior headquarters of the mortar regiment were Armeegruppe Nord at the former Kuerassier Kaserne in Pasewalk and Division Eggesin. Commanding general of Armeegruppe Nord was Major General Hermann Rentzsch, his deputy Lieutenant Colonel Oelmann (fnu). Directly assigned to Armeegruppe Nord were an S-5 regiment and a signal battalion. Division Eggesin was under the command of Colonel Siegfried Weiss. The division consisted of three mechanized regiments stationed in the Karpin area, including one commanded by Major Stechbart (fnu), which had previously been stationed in Schwerin, an artillery regiment commanded by Major Durweiler (fnu), equipped with 122-mm field howitzers and stationed near Karpin; and S-5 (anti aircraft) Kommando, commanded by Major Boerner (fnu) and stationed near Altwarp; an S-6 Kommando; a medium and a heavy tank regiment stationed near Spechtberg. The S-5 Kommando consisted of three battalions, which practiced defense against low-level attacks and firing at air sleeves. ¹
10. In mid-September 1953, the most reliable elements of the S-6 Kommando, a total of about 250 men, were to be employed in East Berlin. [redacted] Division Weiss was to send a total of 4,000 personnel to East Berlin. ¹

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1. ☐ Comment. These data agree with information available to this office. 25X1
2. ☐ Comment. It was also learned from KVP defectors that each battalion of the regiment transferred a battery to other units and that the regiment then consisted of only nine batteries. There is the possibility, that still more batteries have in the meantime been transferred to KVP units newly activated in the southern area of East Germany. Detailed information on the total number of KVP personnel discharged or transferred to other units is not yet available.
3. ☐ Comment. Most of the officers mentioned were previously known as holding the assignments reported. The number of Soviet advisors attached to KVP units was considerably decreased after late June 1953. 25X1

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